

## LOOKING FOR HIS HEIRS

Man Said To Be From Bennington Died Leaving Property.

## WAS STEAMSHIP OFFICER

Gave His Name As R. J. Bennington and Said He Was Born Here—May Have Assumed The Name.

The editor has received the following letter from a lady in Malone, N. Y., and prints it as a matter of interest and in the hope of throwing some light on the case. If any of the readers of this paper know anything of the man or his family and will communicate the same to the Banner and Reformer, it will be duly forwarded:—

My dear Sir:—I wish if possible to find the relatives or friends of a man named Bennington, who has recently died in Yokohama, Japan.

About a year and a half ago, I met this Mr Bennington on the Pacific where he was chief officer on one of the trans-Pacific steamers. He told me that his parents were from Bennington, Vt., that he was born in London, England, (I think) where his father had an appointment under the government; that at the breaking out of the Rebellion, he returned to Vermont (?) where his father enlisted. The father died or was killed the first year, the mother did not live long after and he had no brothers or sisters.

If he told me anything more of his life till he went to sea, I fail to recall it. He told me he had been at sea so long that he felt at home only when out of sight of land.

After this voyage of which I have written, ending September, 1901, he was ill for a time and was put upon the reserve list by his company.

During this time I wrote advising that he try his native air for his health and wrote to a friend I had in Bennington to meet him if he should decide to do so.

By my friends answer, I was surprised to learn that there had never been any Benningtons in Bennington, etc.

Mr Bennington tried the Japanese Springs and was greatly helped and October 6, last, he left Yokohama for a voyage to San Francisco as chief officer again but on a different boat of the line from the one on which I had known him. The second day out they were struck by a terrible typhoon. Many were injured, some killed. Mr Bennington exposed himself far too much, not only in the discharge of duty, but in errands of mercy, and was again ill, but made the return voyage with his boat. He grew worse on the way and on reaching Yokohama was taken to the hospital where he died five days later, about the last of November, 1902.

He left property there but no will, and nothing in all his effects gives any information where in all the world anyone belonging to him could be found.

He was about 45 to 48 years old, I should judge; educated, of good address, below medium height, with dark hair and merry dark eyes. A man of whom no family need be anything but proud.

It is possible that for some reason he may have dropped his own name and taken the name of his native town, but his friends at sea knew no other name than R. J. Bennington.

My interest in the matter? Well, he was the friend and chum of my stepson who was chief engineer on the boat with him for a long time and was very fond of him, my own acquaintance with and liking for him, and my son's wish to try through me to find his relatives.

A letter from my son on January 31st decided me to make a trial. It was only natural that I should turn to an editor—now, wasn't it?—for information. I know of no one who has greater facilities for finding out all he does not already know.

Kindly let me know if you find anything throwing any light on the matter and pardon me for the long letter. I did not seem able to make it brief. Any other information that might help you I could get after a time from the Orient.

I hope that something may come of this, but am rather doubtful.

Malone, N. Y., Feb. 3, 1903.

POWER OF THE CROSS.

Romantic Melodrama to Come to Library Hall Next Wednesday Evening.

The most popular and exciting of all melodramas, "The Power of the Cross," comes to Library Hall for one

performance only on Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock, and that it will draw a crowded house at this engagement may be regarded as a foregone conclusion.

While the production last year was universally conceded to be one of the most meritorious in character, it is said that this season it has been improved to an extent that will surprise even those who saw it before. The cast has been materially strengthened by the addition of several prominent artists, each of whom was selected with an eye to his or her peculiar fitness for the part assigned.

The scenery, which is entirely new, is said to be magnificent in every detail, the famous Bowery scene in particular being described as a veritable masterpiece of modern stage realism.

## MISS MARY L. HOLLISTER.

Death at Half Moon, N. Y., of a Much Esteemed Bennington Young Lady.

Miss Mary L. Hollister, one of the most popular young ladies of this village, died Sunday at Half Moon, N. Y., after seventeen days illness from typhoid fever. Miss Hollister would have been twenty years of age next May. She was a favorite with her teachers, schoolmates and all who knew her. She graduated from the Bennington High School with high honors in the class of 1901, with a great ambition to become a teacher. During her school days she gained a local reputation as a writer in the school paper.

Several weeks ago she went to Cohoes and entered a training school with the intention of fitting herself for a teacher. It was her custom to go to Half Moon every Friday and spend the Sunday with her grandmother. Three weeks ago today she was not feeling well and went to her grandmother's, and the day after was taken ill. Her case was diagnosed as typhoid fever, but her condition was satisfactory until last Wednesday when her mother, Mrs W. C. Hollister, was telephoned to come, as her case had become critical.

The funeral was held from the residence of her grandmother Wednesday, Rev Frank R. Morris of this village officiating, it being her request before she died. The interment was in the cemetery at Half Moon by the side of her father, the late Dr W. C. Hollister, who died in this village eleven years ago.

Misses Cecil Powers and Lillian Davis, members of the same class as Miss Hollister, attended the funeral. Among the tributes was a floral representation of the class pin, composed of crimson and cream carnations. The seniors of '03 and '04 sent roses; the sophomore class, violets.

MRS. M. C. HEALY DEAD.

Was the Mother of the Well Known Letter Carrier, John Healey.

Mrs M. C. Healey died at her home on North-st Monday night. She was 65 years of age and for some time had not been in health, and her death was not unexpected. She had many friends and was a woman whom to know was a pleasure, and she was one who when well was always trying to do good in some manner.

Mrs Healey was born in Ireland but came to this country when young, and the greater part of her life was passed in Bennington. She was married in Albany to Mr Healey 47 years ago.

She is survived by her husband, four sons, John M., a mail carrier on route No. 2; Charles, a dentist in New York; Thomas, a druggist in the same city, and Michael. There are three daughters: Mrs M. W. Donnelly of Troy; Mrs Joseph Haussler, formerly of Hoosick Falls, and Miss Josephine E., who has always been at home.

Her funeral was largely attended from St Francis de Sales church this morning. Relatives and friends were present from North Bennington, Hoosick Falls, Troy and other places. Rev A. J. Barron conducted the services. The interment was at Bennington Centre.

SHAFTSBURY CENTER.

D. R. Galusha was in Woodford on Tuesday.

Mrs Angeline Carey visited in North Bennington last week.

Miss Ida N. Harrington was at home Saturday and Sunday.

Dr Gleason of North Bennington called on friends in town Monday.

R. H. Bottom and wife entertained a number of relatives last Friday evening.

Mrs D. C. Lincoln of Castleton was the guest of her sister, Mrs G. Galusha, Sunday.

Miss Luella Galusha passed Saturday and Sunday with her grandparents, G. J. Frisbee and wife.

Edgar Bowen and family are moving to James Cole's at Shaftsbury Depot. They have lived here a good many years and will be greatly missed.

## THE MAJORITY IS BUT 1,031

A Small Margin Is Shown By the Official Figures.

## THE COMPLETE RETURNS

Eight of the Fourteen Counties Voted For Prohibition and the Other Six Voted For Local Option.

The official figures from last week's election show a majority of 1031 for license.

## Official Vote by Counties.

	Yes	No	Majority
Addison	2101	2099	12 yes
Bennington	2613	1075	1538 yes
Caledonia	1204	2118	1014 no
Chittenden	4412	2213	2199 yes
Essex	353	407	104 no
Franklin	2023	2344	321 yes
Grand Isle	275	303	28 no
Lamoille	768	1050	282 no
Orange	1069	2272	1203 no
Orleans	737	2924	2187 no
Rutland	5471	2743	2728 yes
Washington	3744	2590	1154 yes
Windham	2350	2547	197 no
Windsor	2517	2294	223 yes
	30,554	29,523	1031 yes

## Y. M. C. A. ENTERTAINMENT.

Readings By Miss Nellie Newton and Other Attractions Last Evening.

The entertainment given by the Y. M. C. A. was largely attended last evening, in spite of the bad weather.

Mr Stehman, secretary of the Association, made a few interesting remarks. There are now 184 members, and he hopes to have 200 before long. This is a large gain over a few months ago.

The Glee Club, consisting of fifteen men, rendered three selections which were greatly appreciated, as shown by the encore which they received.

The first farce, "A Cloudy Day," given by Miss Fanny Fillmore and Curtis Burt, was one of the best of its kind ever seen in the rooms. Bennington's young talent should be encouraged in this line, as they seem to adapt themselves to it.

The second farce, "Rooney's Restaurant," was a decided success and deserves a deal of praise. As "Pat Rooney," C. Lynne Wood was a typical Pat in makeup and dialect, and Miss Dorothy Norton, too, won the hearts of all the old maidens present. The cast was as follows:

John Fearful, a Benedict, Lewis Morse  
Pat Rooney, Son of the Bogs, Lynn Wood  
Mrs Fearful, Miss Fanny Thatcher  
Miss Catchem, an old maid,  
Miss Dorothy Norton  
Samuel Swellhead, a dude.

Wesley Fauley  
Reckless Ralph, terror of the plains,  
Roger Ramsdell  
Miss Nellie Newton rendered two splendid selections and once more clearly demonstrated her skill in her chosen profession. Both voice and gestures were perfect and her work ranks her with the best. She was assisted in her reading by MacGregor Ritchie and his violin.

Prof John Daley was the accompanist.

TWO HOT GAMES.

One Bennington Team Lost But The Other A Winner.

There were two scrappy interesting games of basket ball in Library hall Tuesday evening.

The B. H. S. was defeated by the 32 separate company team from Hoosick Falls by a score of 15 to 8. The local boys put up a good fight but could not get there. The Albany team stated to play here missed the train.

The second team from the B. H. S. played the second team from the 32 company, winning the game, score 8 to 7. The players in this game were nearer matched than the former game.

Next Tuesday evening the Schenectady Y. M. C. A. first, and the Mt Anthony boys will play the second Y. M. C. A. team from Schenectady.

The Foresters will hold their bazaar and fair February 11, 12, 13 and 14, in their hall. Dancing will be free each evening. There will be different attractions each night, including Fred Werner, baritone vocalist, in illu-  
trated songs; cake walk, boxing match by the Enright twins, and other features.

A Certain Cure for Chills.

Shake into your shoes Allen's Foot Ease, a powder. It cures Chills, Frostitis, Damp, Sweating, Swollen feet. At all drug-  
stores and Shoe Stores, 25c.

## THE BAND MINSTRELS.

Highly Successful Entertainment Given Last Friday Evening.

A crowded opera house greeted the Bennington band minstrels last Friday evening, the entertainment met the approval of all, as was shown by the frequent and spontaneous applause. The entertainment was entitled, "An Afternoon at Palm Beach" and those taking part were:

Proprietor of Palm Beach Hotel, Robt Healy  
GUESTS,  
Miss Jennie Hatch, Miss Sadie Lazarus, William Laomias, Soloists and thirty others.  
COLORED WATERS, WITH SONGS,  
Miss Luella Goldsmith, Miss Besse Hudson, Miss Fanny Taft, Chas. Fraiser, Miner Cleveland, Fred Warner, Lynn Wood.  
Supported by a chorus of fifty voices and Goldsmith's Palm Beach Orchestra.

## PROGRAM.

A Bunch of "Up-to-date Melodies," Entire Company.  
"Under the Bamboo Tree" Miss Goldsmith.  
"Face Thine Well, Molly Darling," Mr. Loomis.  
"I'm Feeling Lonely," Mr. Warner.  
"Waiting and Waiting," Miss Hatch.  
"So Thirst of Living," Mr. Fraiser.  
"The City of Sighs and Tears," Miss Lazarus.  
"Ain't It Tough to be so Always Muddled," Mr. Wood.  
"I Don't Care if It's Saturday Night or Sunday Afternoon," Chas. Fraiser Jr. and Philip Poor.  
"Come My Sweet Queen," Mr. Healy.  
"Mandy, Let Me be Your Head," Miss Taft.  
Finale—Entire Company and City Band.

Orchestra  
Athletic Exhibition, Fred Grant  
Solo—"St Pat Loved the Boys and the Girls," Win H. Loomis  
(Words by R. E. Healy, music by R. O. Goldsmith; first public rendition.)  
Cornet solo—"Mama's in the Cold, Cold Ground," with variations, Lawrence Gokay  
Selection—Aron Ladies Quartet

Miss Jennie Hatch, Miss Jessie Potter  
Miss Luella Goldsmith, Miss Chas. Doran  
Solo—"Cool It," Miss Besse Hudson  
An Original Sketch:

Arrival of "Dan and Mike" on the special ship "Emerald," direct from Mars, with messages.

## MONEY FOR POSTMASTERS.

Senator Proctor Introduces a Bill To Reimburse Several Old Timers.

Senator Proctor, on February 3, introduced in the United States Senate a resolution on behalf of 233 old time postmasters of Vermont, who served in periods between July 1, 1864 and July 1, 1874. In the administration of the salary act of July 1, 1864, contrary to the expectation of Congress, the salaries of these postmasters, in one or more biennial terms, were reduced much below what their compensation would be by box rents and commissions.

Congress in 1860 and again in 1883 passed a law to make good to the postmasters or their heirs such deficiencies. The department was averse to such payments and a long controversy has resulted. The Senate committee on postoffices and postroads, of which Senator Proctor is a member, on the 4th of February reported a resolution calling for the report of the salary accounts of postmasters in such cases in order that they may be paid.

There is about \$38,000 due Vermont postmasters in such cases.

Should the bill become a law, the following postmasters in Bennington county will be benefited:—

Bennington, J. L. C. Cook, \$1,208;  
North Bennington, Charles E. Well-  
ing, \$1,180; Pownal, A. G. Parker,  
\$562; Rupert, C. F. Sheldon, \$756.

## READSBORO

W. D. Howe was in North Adams Monday on business.

Earl Goodell was in North Adams over Sunday visiting friends.

Judge L. R. Beckley of New York was in town the first of the week.

Dan Banister of Northampton, Mass., is visiting his brother, Frank W. Banister.

Mrs Wm Wiley and children spent Sunday in Buckland, Mass., visiting Mr Wiley's parents.

Childs Tavern, Wilmington, was opened to guests on Monday under the management of Mr and Mrs F. S. Crofts.

The Dayton show was well attended last Thursday and Friday nights. The performance was first-class in every respect.

A large crowd took advantage of the special train Monday night and went to North Adams to see the Old Homestead.

Allie Pike, who is working for the B. & M. railroad with headquarters at Greenfield, Mass., spent a few days with his parents last week.

Tyler D. Goodell received a telegram Monday from S. T. Chamberlain announcing the death of the latter's 18-year old son, Dalton, of Brandon. The funeral was held Wednesday.

Another high wind Sunday night—this time Judge Bowen lost a chimney and the large plate glass at Goodell's store, which was cracked some time ago, blew in.

About 25 couples drove to Heartwellville last Friday evening to attend a supper given by the Rebekahs at the home of W. W. Follet. Supper was followed by dancing and whist and all who attended report the best time of the season.

Folks will eat too much rich, heavy food in cold weather. Result—Indigestion, constipation, biliousness. The cure—Ramon's Liver Pills and Tonic Pellets. A complete course of treatment for a month cures but a quarter and a cure is assured, without griping, purging or other unpleasant effects so often experienced. Try a course. O. E. Gibson.

## POLITICS IN TOWN

Both Parties Have Called Caucuses for This Week.

## BETTER METHODS URGED

Interests of the Town Would Be Better Served If Partisanship Could Be Thrown Overboard.

Republican and Democratic party caucuses have been called and Bennington appears to be threatened with another indication of partisan politics, just as if the town had not had politics enough during the past twelve months.

The outcome no man can safely predict. The Democrats hope to hold the Clement Republicans who voted with them last fall and thereby sweep the town and control the town government for the coming year.

On the other hand the Republicans figure that the old issues are dead and that the only ones to consider are those of the future and that the interests of the Clement Republicans are the same as before the recent strife, which is of course theoretically true.

The Banner and Reformer believes that, as a matter of fact, both are wrong and that not the Republican party, the Democratic party or the Clement party is entitled to the slightest consideration in the issues that now confront us. Party politics are a nuisance in town affairs.

The only issue of the present town campaign is a business issue. The town of Bennington does an actual cash business of a hundred thousand dollars or so every year and some years much more than that, while at any time a case may come up involving the interests of every owner of a dollar's worth of property in Bennington.

Moreover the new license law injects another important issue. The town is confronted by the problem of controlling and managing a traffic on which not only the business but the moral interests of the town in no small measure depend. It should be entrusted only in those hands in which the people of Bennington have the utmost confidence and it should never become an object of party strife or a weapon to be used for party purposes.

All parties contain plenty of men in whom the public would implicitly trust but they are not always the most likely to get onto party tickets, and the Banner and Reformer believes that the way to select them is through some medium of civic pride rather than party strife and partisan methods.

The excise commissioners to have charge of the administration of the new license law will not, of course, be elected or named by the caucuses called. They are to be appointed by the selectmen, but between the caucuses and the March meeting it is pretty sure to become understood whom the different party nominees would appoint if successful and in that way the positions will have an important place in the strife.

If the Banner and Reformer might be permitted to suggest some names for license commissioners—not in the interest of the Republican party, the Democratic party, or the Clement party but in the interest of the town of Bennington—it would present the following:

John S. Holden,  
Robert S. Drysdale,  
S. Huling Blackmer.

If asked today to accept the places doubtless every one of them would promptly decline, but if asked and urged by a united citizens meeting unmixed with party strife and devoted solely to the good of the town, there would be strong reasons for believing that they could be induced to consent. And if they did consent they would form a board that Bennington could and would most emphatically trust, certain that no private interests would be fostered at the expense of the public and sure that the offices would not be used to build up a party machine.

As to the main town ticket, the selectmen, listers, constable, etc., the interests of the town would be much better conserved were the offices taken out of the domain of party politics and the business done on a basis of town pride and municipal rather than political interest.

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## FOR TOWN OFFICE.

Caucus Called and Political Gossip Is Becoming Prevalent.

With the calling of the caucuses political gossip has become rife. Report has it that the Democrats are somewhat at sea relative to their town ticket, owing to the refusal of some of their best men to run. They will probably nominate a ticket made up of Democrats and Clement Republicans.

Among the Democrats or fusionists suggested for places on the license board are Emory S. Harris, John Robinson, A. W. Rockwood, Homer A. Lyons and W. P. Hogan.

The Republicans point with pride to the record of the board of selectmen elected last year, which has certainly made as few mistakes as any board of recent years, and talk of renominating all three if they will run.

The board of listers the coming year is likely to be largely new whigever party wins, as most of the present listers wish to retire. The present board has made a good record and showed its independence by raising the assessment of several of the leading Republicans in town though they were elected on the Republican ticket.

For license commissioners, among the Republicans suggested are John S. Holden, J. T. Shurtleff, George F. Graves, S. Huling Blackmer, W. H. Bradford and C. M. Graves.

Arthur C. Sweet is mentioned as a candidate for constable and collector on the Democratic ticket, and should he be elected there is every reason to believe that he would serve with credit to himself and the town.

## POWNA

S. L. Smith & Son have received a carload of stove coal.

Patrick Colwell is confined to the house with the grippe.

Jay Ensign of Williamstown, Mass., was the guest of friends in town Sunday.

Miss Meriloh Smith is slowly recovering again, after the slight paralytic shock she had recently.

Lester Moon and Samuel Stocking of Williamstown were in town Saturday, visiting friends.

Austin Proud's new house is rapidly assuming shape and bids fair to be a very handsome residence.

Louis Bedard is advertising his personal property for sale on the Jewett farm next Wednesday, February 18th.

Mrs Margaret McConnell has gone to Wallaceburg, Ont., to visit her sister, Mrs Mary Gore, formerly of this town.

Mrs Carrie E. Hawks of Bennington, who has been the guest of her sister, Mrs E. A. Potter, returned to-day to her home in Bennington.

Miss Olive Jewell, the youngest daughter of a former Baptist pastor, Rev Ernest L. Scott, will be married February 17th to Harry B. Hagan, at Bessemer Terrace, East Pittsburg, Pa.

Miss Harriet A. Barber entertained a few of her friends at whist last Saturday evening. An abundant collation was served. There were a number of guests present from out of town.

Under the management of J. J. Bechard the comedy, "The Daisy Homestead," will be presented at Academy hall Friday evening. This will be the last night but one of the Catholic fair.

A large number of the friends and relatives of Ralph Potter, who was drowned at Williamstown Saturday, attended his funeral in the Methodist church in that town Monday. The parents of the unfortunate boy are old residents of Pownal and they have the sympathy of the village.

Word has been received in Pownal of the death of George C. Gardner at his home in Hartford, Kansas, of typhoid fever. The deceased was a native of this town, being the son of the late Solomon Gardner. He leaves a widow and four children. David S. Gardner of this town and Fred C. Gardner of Petersburg Junction are brothers of the deceased.

Friday night Peter McMahon of Williamstown entered Geo Maloney's store, accompanied by another man, each carrying a number of handsome overcoats. These were disposed of to some of the men present at a ridiculously low prices. They told a plausible story of how the coats came in their possession, so the buyers had no suspicion that the men had not come honestly by them. The next night a party of Williams students came to Pownal in quest of these very coats which it appears had been stolen from the Kappa Alpha chapter house. They enlisted Deputy Sheriff Norwood's services and that night two of the coats were located. Sheriff Norwood found the other six coats Monday and took them to Williamstown to the owners. The students were generous, refunding to the Pownal men all they had paid for the coats. McMahon has not yet been apprehended.

From Albany to Jerusalem with only two changes—one at New York, the other at Joppa—via the New York Central Lines.

## FAT "FENCE" DISCOVERED

Stolen Property Found at Farm-house In Shaftsbury.

## THREE MEN ACCUSED

One of Them, James Moon, Is Now In Custody and Confined In Jail at Troy on Another Charge.

For some time past there have been frequent robberies and burglaries in this section and no apparent clues were found. Among the robberies have been a number of chicken coops, Mrs James Smith lost 32 valuable fowls a couple of weeks ago.

She had strong suspicions as to where they were and Wednesday Mr Smith, with sheriffs Godfrey and Nash and Constable Cutler of Woodford visited the Herbert Dunham place near Shaftsbury Hollow. Not only did they find a quantity of fowls, but robes, blankets, whips, household utensils, etc.

Mr Smith received 14 of her hens, postmaster Cox of Hoosick identified 2 as belonging to him, and other parties identified some.

One of the supposed thieves, James Moon, is held in the Troy jail for a crime recently committed in New York state. The others are said to be two men named Hunt and Hill who recently occupied the Dunham place.

Deputy sheriff Godfrey with officer Myers of Hoosick Falls went to Shaftsbury Wednesday afternoon and there secured a valuable set of single harness that was recently stolen